

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A functional film fabrication method for fabricating a functional film on a base having a flat surface, comprising:

~~an installation step, wherein~~ installing the base is ~~installed~~ so that the flat surface is on top, and a droplet discharge head with a plurality of nozzles aligned in a first direction is placed above the flat surface; ~~and~~

~~a first discharge step, wherein~~ discharging droplets of a functional liquid ~~are~~ discharged from the nozzles onto a predetermined discharge area in the base to continuously form a functional film within the predetermined discharge area,

the discharging of the droplets including discharging the droplets so that an interval between adjacent droplets in the first direction within the predetermined discharge area is greater than an interval between adjacent droplets in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction within the predetermined discharge area.;

~~a nozzle movement step, wherein the nozzles are moved relative to the base in the first direction and in a perpendicular second direction over the short distance between the nozzles in the first direction; and~~

~~a second discharge step, wherein droplets of the functional liquid are discharged from the nozzles onto the base.~~

2. (Original) The functional film fabrication method according to claim 1, wherein

the functional liquid is a protective film material for a color filter.

3. (Currently Amended) The functional film fabrication method according to claim 2, further comprising[[:]]

~~forming a filter formation step performed before the installation step, wherein a color filter is formed on the flat surface of the base prior to the discharging of the droplets of the functional liquid, [[:]] and~~

~~drying the droplets of the functional liquid discharged onto the substrate a drying step performed after the second discharge step, wherein the droplets are dried.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The functional film fabrication method according to claim 3, further comprising[[:]]

~~modifying a surface modification step between the filter formation step and the installation step, wherein the surface of the color filter is modified and to improve the wettability of the surface of the color filter surface is improved after the color filter is formed on the substrate.~~

5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The functional film fabrication method for fabricating a functional film on a base having a flat surface, according to claim 1, further comprising[[:]]

~~an installation step, wherein the base is installed so that the flat surface is on top, and a droplet discharge head with a plurality of nozzles aligned in a first direction is placed above the flat surface, and~~

~~fabricating an application step, wherein a~~ the functional film is fabricated on the flat surface by repeating the discharging of the ~~a discharge step wherein~~ droplets of ~~[[a]] the functional liquid are discharged from the nozzles onto the predetermined discharge area of the base as the nozzles are moved in the first direction and in the second direction.~~ ~~;~~ ~~and~~

~~a nozzle movement step wherein the nozzles are moved relative to the base in the first direction and in a perpendicular second direction over the short distance between the nozzles in the first direction.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The functional film fabrication method according to claim 5, wherein

~~the application step is a step for~~ the fabricating of the functional film includes applying the functional liquid on the predetermined discharge area formed in the entire flat surface of the base.

7. (Currently Amended) The functional film fabrication method according to claim 5, wherein

~~the application step involves~~ the fabricating of the functional film includes controlling the thickness of the functional film by varying the discharged amount of the droplets ~~in the discharge step and/or the second direction movement distance in the nozzle movement step.~~

8. (Original) The functional film fabrication method according to claim 5, wherein

the functional liquid is a protective film material for a color filter.

9. (Currently Amended) The functional film fabrication method according to claim 5, further comprising[[,]]

~~forming a filter formation step, wherein a color filter is formed on the flat surface of the base prior to the discharging of the droplets of the functional liquid before the installation step, and~~

~~drying the droplets of the functional liquid discharged onto the substrate a drying step, wherein the functional film is dried after the application step.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The functional film fabrication method according to claim 9, further comprising[[,]]

~~modifying a surface modification step between the filter formation step and the installation step, wherein the surface of the color filter is modified and to improve the wettability of the surface of the color filter surface is improved after the color filter is formed on the substrate.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The functional film fabrication method according to claim 10, further comprising[[,]]

~~installing an opposing substrate arrangement step, wherein an opposing substrate is disposed facing the functional film after the droplets of the functional liquid is dried drying step, and~~

~~injecting a liquid crystal injection step, wherein liquid crystal is injected between the functional film and the opposing substrate.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The functional film fabrication method according to claim 11, further comprising[[],]

~~affixing an electro-optical panel configuration step, wherein~~ specific mounting components are affixed to the base to configure an electro-optical panel after the liquid crystal is injected between the functional film and the opposing substrate ~~injection step~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The functional film fabrication method according to claim 11, further comprising[[],]

~~forming a light-emitting element formation step, wherein~~ a light-emitting element is formed in a matrix configuration on the opposing substrate after the liquid crystal is injected between the functional film and the opposing substrate ~~injection step~~.

14-20. (Canceled)